## Message Text

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43 S

**ACTION EA-10** 

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 SS-15 SSO-00

NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02

AID-05 FDRE-00 DPW-01 SCA-01 VO-03 /077 W

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P R 181353Z APR 75 FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2997 INFO USMISSION GENEVA AMEMBASSY PARIS AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 6798

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: SREF, CB, TH

SUBJ: RTG/UNHCR RELATIONS

REF: A) BANGKOK 6779; B) BANGKOK 6615 C) GENEVA 2631; D) SECSTATE 086502

- 1. A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL INFORMED THE EMBASSY ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 18 THAT THE RTG WAS RELUCTANT TO PERMIT THE UNHCR TO ASSIST IN THE CARE AND RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES IN THAILAND.
- 2. THE RTG DOES NOT WISH AT THIS TIME TO SIGN THE CONVENTION ON REFUGEES AND BELIEVES SEEKING HELP OF THE UNHCR ON THE CAMBODIAN REFUGEE PROBLEM WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH THIS POLICY. THE RTG POLICY IS BASED ON CONCERNS THAT BY SIGNING THE CONVENTION ON REFUGEES IT WOULD BE ASSUMING OBLIGATIONS WHICH IT MIGHT NOT WANT NOR BE ABLE TO FULFILL. THE POROUS BORDERS OF THE COUNTRY AND THE FLOW OF PEOPLES BACK AND FORTH ACROSS THESE BORDERS COULD PRESENT SERIOUS PROBLEMS TO THE THAI WERE THEY PARTY TO THE CONVENTION.
- 3. BECAUSE OF THIS, THE RTG IS CONSIDERING SEEKING THE ASSISTANCE CONFIDENTIAL

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OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS IN RESETTLING AND CARING FOR

CAMBODIAN REFUGEES. THEY WILL PROBABLY MAKE A REQUEST IN THE NEAR FUTURE, ALTHOUGH THE FINAL DECISON HAS NOT BEEN MADE ON THIS MATTER.

4. THE RTG IS ALSO CONSIDERING SEEKING THE ASSISTANCE OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES THROUGH THEIR EMBASSIES IN BANGKOK. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL SAID THE CANADIANS, FOR EXAMPLE, HAD ALREADY EXPRESSED TO THE RTG A WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT ANY KHMER WITH RELATIVES IN CANADA. THE EMBASSY OFFICER SUGGESTED THAT THE FRENCH MIGHT BE KEY IN ANY SUCH EFFORT SINCE MANY OF THE KHMER WOULD PROBABLY LIKE TO RESETTLE IN THAT COUNTRY.

COMMENT: THE CONVERSATION REPORTED IN THIS MESSAGE TOOK PLACE SUBSEQUENT TO THE VISIT OF UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE KADRY WITH THE CHARGE EARLIER TODAY - (REF. A). IN LIGHT OF THE EXPRESSED RTG POSITION REGARDING THE UNHCR, WE WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO ACT AS INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN THE PARTIES BUT WILL LEAVE IT UP TO THEM TO WORK OUT AN ARRANGEMENT IF THEY WISH TO DO SO. WE WILL, OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE UNHCR, AND, HOPEFULLY, GET THEM TO TAKE PROMPT ACTION WHENEVER THEY CAN ASSIST.

MASTERS

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## Message Attributes

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